

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19 June 2012 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 2.24 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair

Councillor Rodney Rose
Councillor Nick Carter
Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat
Councillor Melinda Tilley

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Alan Armitage (Agenda Item 8)
Councillor Roz Smith (Agenda Items 6 & 7)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Joanna Simons (Chief Executive); Sue Whitehead (Law & Culture)

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

71/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Chapman, Councillor Fatemian, Councillor Hibbert-Biles and Councillor Mallon.

72/12 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2012 were approved and signed.

Cabinet approved an erratum to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 April 2012 and the resolution as corrected is set out in full below.

57/12 2011/12 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report - February 2012

RESOLVED to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) approve the supplementary estimates as set out in Annex 2e;

- (c) agree the creation of the new reserves as set out in paragraph 44 to 48;
- (d) approve the new capital schemes and budget changes set out in Annex 10c; and
- (e) approve virements for financial year 2012/13 included in Annex 9.

73/12 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor David Turner had given notice of the following question to Councillor Nick Carter:

" Would the Cabinet confirm that the policy of only spending the £3.86M central government grant on Broadband in areas of Oxfordshire where the download speed is lower than 2.0 Mb/s is still in place and advise in broad terms what we might expect to get in terms of speed and Countywide coverage in the future for the combined investment from Government, OCC's matched funding, use of OCN money and private sector funding?"

Councillor Nick Carter replied:

"The national programme of broadband improvement will only improve services to approximately 70% of Oxfordshire by the end of 2015. The Council's programme, agreed in February 2012, remains in place and to have "superfast" broadband available to 90%. "Superfast" means speeds in excess of 24 Mb. The further aim is to have a minimum 2Mb in place for the remaining 10% of the county. The programme is intended to establish the necessary infrastructure on which commercial organisations can deliver broadband services. The Council will not be delivering broadband services. The budget for the current Council led broadband programme comprises:

£3.86 Million from BDUK (Government funding)

£3.86 Million from OCC as matched funding for the BDUK contribution

£6.14 Million from OCC to enable us to cease the OCN by 2015

Through a procurement process, in common with similar programmes running elsewhere, we aim to secure a private sector partner who will make at least the same matched funding ie approximately £14 Million. The necessary procurement is now in progress and we expect to secure a private sector partner by the end of 2012."

Supplementary: Councillor David Turner referred to the National Rural Community Broadband Fund aimed at those 10% of people that Councillor Carter is seeking to help. Applications to the Fund are needed by 6 July and applicants are being asked to look at and engage with the local Broadband Plan. This was not currently on the Council web site and Councillor Turner sought assurance that it would be put on there speedily. Councillor Carter gave an assurance that he would ensure the Plan or details of it were on the web site and get back to Councillor Turner.

74/12 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:

Item 6 – Councillor Roz Smith, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance & Police

Item 7 – Councillor Roz Smith, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance & Police

Item 8 - Councillor Alan Armitage, Opposition Deputy Leader

75/12 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2011/12 AND REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARDS

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the revenue and capital outturn for 2011/12 and showed how actual expenditure and income for the year compared to the budgeted position. It also included proposals for carry forwards from 2011/12 to 2012/13.

Councillor Roz Smith, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance and Police noted the need for the Council to make savings and referred to the revenue underspends predicted which could be read with concern if they meant that services were stretched. Councillor Smith highlighted the level of general balances and commented that the Liberal Democrat Group would query why the balances were so high. Referring to the School Balances she asked that any balances recovered from schools be spent locally. The Leader responded to the comments made.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the revenue and capital outturn, and the year end position on balances and reserves as set out in the report;
- (b) approve the carry-forwards and virements as set out in Annex 2;
- (c) **RECOMMEND** Council to approve the virements greater than £0.5m for Children, Education & Families, Social & Community Services and Environment & Economy Directorates as set out in Annex 2b;
- (d) agree that the surplus on the On-Street Parking Account at the end of the 2011/12 financial year, so far as not applied to particular eligible purposes in accordance with Section 55(4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, be carried forward in the account to the 2012/13 financial year.

76/12 2012/13 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - APRIL 2012

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet considered the first in a series of regular reports for 2012/13 that covered the period to the end of April 2012 for both revenue and capital budgets. The report focused on significant issues around the on-going delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies. These were approved by Council in February 2011 and subsequently reviewed as part of the 2012/13 Service & Resource Planning process.

Councillor Roz Smith, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance & Police, commented that the Liberal Democrat Group recognised the risks involved in making savings and there were known unknowns that had led them to put more money into adult services in their proposed budget in February. The Leader recognised that there were indeed known unknowns but that the Council was committed to making medium term savings.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) approve the virement requests set out in Annex 3a;
- (c) approve the creation of a new reserve for Thriving Families as set out in paragraph 31;
- (d) note the updated Treasury Management lending list at Annex 4.

77/12 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE 4TH QUARTER 2011

(Agenda Item. 8)

The Cabinet considered a report setting out progress made toward the Corporate Plan priorities for the period between January and March 2012.

Councillor Alan Armitage, Opposition Deputy Leader stated that the report was a useful summary of progress that was frank about areas where targets had not been met. However he referred to a number of areas where he suggested that progress was over stated and it was premature to refer to major achievement These included breaking the cycle of deprivation, broadband, energy usage.

Cabinet noted that the report was the end of year position and reflected the targets agreed by the Council.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

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78/12 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 9)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with amendments to the Forward Plan published last week.

RESOLVED: to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing